

ABSTRACT

[0035] A slide loading mechanism utilizes compressed air as the
5 transport medium to move the slides from a magazine to the stage
of a microscope. The stage is provided with a carriage moving
horizontally along a direct path between the stage and the
magazine. A conveyor coupled to the carriage includes a tongue
suitable for positioning under the slide of interest in the
10 magazine when the carriage is at one end of its travel path, so
that the slide may be picked up for translation to the stage of
the microscope. When the carriage is moved to the opposite end
of its travel path, the tongue is completely removed from the
magazine, which may be freely moved vertically by an elevator to
15 align another slide for processing. Directional air flow is
used to suspend and transport the slide back and forth between
the two ends of the conveyor